

ast  
ear  
st,  
ly,  
era  
la-  
ati

of  
ng  
ds  
et  
lu-  
be-  
ole  
has  
ese

el-  
or  
ne  
re-  
or  
ate  
ed  
re-  
to  
was  
ior

—  
he  
ed  
st,  
ni-  
ally

—  
per  
ees  
ed  
py-  
ins

ng  
re-  
ne  
ve  
of

he  
der  
ce  
pa-

# THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

---

VOL. LV.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1856.

No. 12.

---

## DRAPER'S PHYSIOLOGY.\*—A REVIEW.

[Communicated for the Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.]

THIS is a treatise on Physiology written by a Chemist. Anatomists, surgeons and physicians have produced most of the works on this branch of science, so that we have a right to expect some points of novelty and certain advantages in the mode of treatment by a writer who looks at the subject from a different side from that which most other observers and thinkers have occupied. The Physiological Chemistry of Lehmann, recently translated and re-published in this country, a work admirable for its completeness of research and experiment, so far as it goes, does not cover the whole field of physiology. It is, besides, of too profound and exhaustive a character for the average student and the general reader. In all our other hand-books the chemistry is all at second hand. We have a right, therefore, to expect something new from Professor Draper.

There is much in his treatise that is both new and good. We are refreshed to have a real book by a thinker and not a mere compiler. We look with delight upon a series of new illustrations, after having had Wilson's wood cuts served up to us in almost every illustrated professional work published for a dozen years. We give our hearty welcome, therefore, to the new work, and we propose to pay our respects to it briefly, first, by giving its plan; secondly, by mentioning some of its more original and interesting views; and, lastly, by pointing out some things which seem to us hasty, or erroneous, or contradictory. *Briefly*, because our space is narrow and the subject, once ventured into, boundless. Our wish is not to enter upon physiological discussions, but to call attention to Professor Draper's book. In some other form we shall be glad, if the opportunity offers, to return to it, for the sake of examining some of the questions it opens; here we look at it only as the subject of a bibliographical notice.

The author begins by a lucid exposition of the chemical condi-

---

\* *Human Physiology, Statical and Dynamical; or the Conditions and Course of the Life of Man.* By JOHN WILLIAM DRAPER, M.D., LL.D., Professor of Chemistry and Physiology in the University of New York. Illustrated with nearly three hundred wood engravings. New York: Harper & Brothers. 1856.

tions of animal life, namely, a supply of air, food and combustible matter. Some tables are given, convenient for reference, and revealing facts that may interest the great consuming public as well as its professional advisers. When a man is told that a *ton and a half* of food, water and air pass through his system in a single year, he may realize, in some measure, the energy of those processes which require such an amount of circulating medium for their business.

The functions of organic or vegetative life are described in the usual order, beginning with an account of the different forms of food, and taking up the several stages of nutrition from the first digestive processes to the final appropriation of the reduced, depurated and aerated product to the several tissues. Then follow the chapters relating to the nervous system, the organs of special sense and the muscles. All the subjects hitherto mentioned are classed together under the general head of "Statical Physiology" or "Conditions of Life."

The Second Book, including the last quarter of the work, is devoted to what is called "Dynamical Physiology," and contains a discussion of the Principles of Organization, the Influence of Physical Agents on the Organic Series, or the Race, animal and vegetable; Cell-growth; Reproduction; Sleep and Death; Influence of Physical Agents on the Aspect and Form of Man, and his Intellectual Qualities; and lastly, a chapter on "Social Mechanics."

A division somewhat like the preceding had already been established by Burdach. He, however, treats only of the general forces of nature, attraction, electricity, heat, &c., and the *vital* force, under the head of Dynamics. We consider Prof. Draper's division as less precise and philosophical. We do not see, for instance, why *cell-growth* should be treated as belonging to *Dynamical Physiology*, while nutrition and secretion, in which cell-growth is so largely concerned, are considered as belonging to *Statical Physiology*. Nor do we perceive any good reason for treating of *Sleep* among the "conditions of development," development being defined as the motion of an organized form in opposition to its equilibrium. The distinction which is obvious in physics between matter at rest and matter in motion cannot be extended to living bodies as such, the very essence of their condition being motion or change, the highest of organized forms constituting, in Dr. Draper's words, "a mechanism, the parts of which are unceasingly taken asunder and as unceasingly replaced." *Anatomy* embraces the real "Statics" of organized being, and *Physiology* its "Dynamics," that is, the action of the organs and the forces which they obey.

We proceed to call the attention of the reader to a few of the special points of interest in the work before us. Professor Draper's researches on the subject of *endosmosis* have been long known and valued by men of science. Referring very briefly to these labors, the results of which may be found in various papers published in the *American Journal of Medical Sciences*, as well as in his "Treatise on the Forces which produce the Organization of Plants," he con-

tents himself with a short exposition of the leading experiments, including many ingenious ones of his own, and the doctrines derived from them, with their application to liquid and gaseous transudation as it occurs in the living body. The interchange of gases which takes place in respiration was ascribed by Valentin to the simple agency of Graham's law of diffusion. Professor Draper showed, long ago, that the action of a solid medium separating two gases controls the law in question. Lehmann has adduced various experiments to show that the state of tension of the gas in the vesicles, and the quantity of gas condensed in the blood, determine the rate of interchange. Three different forces, then, at least, are concerned in the movement of the respiratory gases, in addition to the muscular power by which they are pumped into and out of the lungs. But all these forces are purely physical, and manifest themselves as well in mechanical experiments as in the living body.

So of the transudation of liquids. Professor Draper adds some new illustrations of the selecting or *secreting* power of lifeless membrane and even of a bunch of vegetable filaments. If blue litmus water is tied in a bladder and sunk in alcohol, the water passes into the alcohol, but the coloring matter is stopped. If a lamp is half-filled with oil, and half with water, the wick, if soaked in oil, will take up the oil only, and if soaked in water will take up the water only. Endosmosis is capillary attraction. It takes place through membranes, through stucco and other porous inorganic substances, through the most delicate soap-bubble, even, and always betrays an active force, often an energetic force, existing in the medium itself through which the gases or liquids are transmitted. It interchanges liquids with each other, and gases with each other, whether the latter are in the aërisform state, or one or both are dissolved in a liquid. It selects one element of a compound for transmission, and rejects another. These facts, and many others of a similar character, some of the most interesting of which may be found in the work of Matteucci, re-published in this country a few years since, tend to substitute a simple physical agency for that "low intelligence" by which secreting organs were formerly thought to be guided in the performance of their functions.

In regard to the cause of the circulation of the blood, Professor Draper holds the same opinion which has been zealously maintained by a distinguished lady-physiologist of this country, Mrs. Emma Willard, and in which she has been supported, if we remember correctly, by Dr. Cartwright. To state it briefly in the author's own words, "I consider the circulation as the consequence of respiration." The arguments from comparative anatomy and from the phenomena of asphyxia are familiar to all students of physiology. But allowing fully for the importance of the chemical changes which take place in the capillaries, we must not rashly treat the heart as a mere anatomical luxury, or sentimental appendage. In Mr. Erichsen's experiment, the right bronchus was tied in dogs that had

been pithed, and artificial respiration was maintained in the left lung. Here were the conditions of asphyxia in the right lung, yet so long as the heart's action was maintained, nearly as much dark blood flowed through a right pulmonary vein, as red blood through a left one.

The heart is described and illustrated in some detail. One little point no physiologist seems to have got hold of—the use of the *corpora Arantii*—the tubercles of Arantius. We have long since suggested and recently illustrated by a very simple model, what we conceive to be their true purpose. It is to keep the valve from being pressed flat against the side of the vessel, and therefore slid over by the returning column of blood, instead of being caught by it and forced back. It keeps a crevice open for the blood to insinuate itself through and get behind the valve, doing, in short, what the pull upon the tendinous cords of the tricuspid and mitral valves does for them.

We must call attention to the very neat illustration of the mechanical part of respiration, on page 161. We have seen nothing that so easily and perfectly displays the nature of the respiratory movements. It is a curious statement that "every fifth breath is usually deeper than the preceding four." We do not dispute it; we marvel rather that if it is so, it should have taken so many thousand years to find it out. Mr. Emerson somewhere questions "why nature loves the number five," and here is another of those odd facts (if it is only true) that make poets ask questions which philosophers cannot answer. Some of Professor Paine's interesting results from his experiments on the temperature of trees are quoted from the "Medical and Physiological Commentaries." These experiments were performed in 1839. Similar ones, by Schuebler and Halder, are referred to in Tiedemann's Physiology, dated in 1830. Professor Draper very justly, as it seems to us, denies the accuracy of the conclusions drawn from the experiments of Dulong, by which one fifth of the heat actually produced in the living animal body was left unaccounted for. Liebig had already examined and corrected his results, and attempted to show that, with these corrections, the oxydation of combustible matter in the system accounts for all the heat which is generated. Sir Benjamin Brodie's famous experiments on artificial respiration are referred to, but certain others of a similar character, and with opposite results, are not mentioned. The first of these are to be found in an inaugural thesis, now before us, "read and defended at the Public Examination before the Rev. President and the Medical Professors of Harvard University, August 20th, 1813, by Enoch Hale, Jr., M.D." It is not wonderful that this little pamphlet is not very generally known. It is, however, cited by Burdach, and its conclusions, in opposition to the widely quoted ones of Sir Benjamin Brodie, have been confirmed by other experiments, long since instituted, which may be found in the last edition of Carpenter's Physiology. Professor Draper's view of the production of animal heat is in accordance with

the evidence afforded by these more recent experiments, and appears to us the only reasonable one.

We may remark the suggestion, under the head of *Secretion*, that the retrograding secretions may be produced by simple filtration, and the ascending ones by cell agency. Some important experiments of Dr. John C. Draper (son of the author) are adduced as going to prove that food has much greater influence on the amount of urea than exercise. It is stated that urea has been found in the form of a bluish, powdery matter on the bodies of persons that have died of cholera. We do not remember seeing any previous account of Krause's experiment here cited, showing that the surface of the palm of the hand secretes a fatty matter. But we have observed certain appearances on the cover of books taken from circulating libraries which illustrate the same physiological fact. Indeed, we suspect the popularity of a library-book might be as well estimated by treating its paper cover with ether and weighing the solid product, as by the critical notices appended to its advertisements. A curious comparison is instituted between the sudoriparous glands and the Malpighian corpuscles, based on their similar structure and mutually interchanging offices.

Of many points which we should like to notice under the head of the *Nervous System*, we must select two or three only. We would refer the reader particularly to page 287 and those following. The reference of the ideas of space and time to the eye and the ear, respectively; the beautiful original illustration of the function of the registering ganglia by the wafer experiment; the doctrine that the ganglia are reservoirs and not originators of power, are all deserving of being quoted in full, did our space permit.

In the account of the *Special Senses* we find the author attempting to show that the semi-circular canals appreciate, or furnish the conditions for appreciating, the quality of sound, and that the act of vision is dependent on the change of *temperature*, and consequent chemical alteration of the retina; a novel supposition, if not a strange one, to which he gives the name of the "calorific hypothesis." He quotes Turner's observation on the diversity of the sense of smell in different persons. "The flower of the *iris persica* was pronounced of pleasant odor by forty-one out of fifty-four persons, by four to have little scent, and by one to be ill-scented." We remember offering some white water-lilies to a professional friend, and his telling us that their smell was disagreeable to him.

Muscular contraction is attributed by Professor Draper simply to oxidation and loss of material.

The Second Book, entitled *DYNAMICAL PHYSIOLOGY, OR THE COURSE OF LIFE*, consists of eight Chapters, each of which offers abundant material for reflection and discussion. The account of the effect of the different rays of the spectrum on the decomposition of carbonic acid by plants; the "considerations respecting the individuality of a plant"; the "analogy between a plant and a flame"; the illustrations of the laws of change in the animal series; the

whole concluding chapter, rich in historical illustration and eloquent in style, may be read with delight as well as profit.

An ingenious experimenter, an inventive theorist, a discursive scholar, and a man of enthusiastic mental temperament like Professor Draper, is bound by the laws of his nature to be sometimes sanguine, hasty, fanciful, overleaping his premises with his conclusions, accepting hypotheses as facts, and now and then showing up his science as he would have it rather than as it is. It is not strange, therefore, that we should think we detect a few inaccuracies or over-statements here and there, and if, in the instances we have regarded as such, we on our part have not been careless readers, it is but fair to point them out for the author's consideration in future editions, and for the student's recognition.

In repeated instances that which is only laid down as an hypothesis or conjecture is afterwards reasoned from as a fact. Thus, on page 51 it is "suspected" that one class of follicles yield the acid of the gastric juice, and another class the pepsin. At page 60 the suspicion becomes "the fact" that the stomach possesses "at one part mucous follicles, at another pepsin follicles, at another follicles for the secretion of hydrochloric acid." At page 266 there is a "resemblance" between the arrangement of the nerve with its white substance and membranous tube, and that of an isolated wire. At page 274 "everything indicates" that the white substance only discharges the duty of an isolator. At page 276 it is not to be supposed that a current of electricity would ever escape from the centre of the nerve, because "the isolating quality of the white cylinder of Schwann would prevent any such effect." On page 372 the author "considers" that "in the view here presented" the cochlea is arranged so as to measure the wave-length of sounds. On page 375 it is treated as an established fact; though this speculation of M. Dugès is more prudently regarded by Carpenter as only to be received as a stimulus to future inquiry.

Occasionally there is a discrepancy between statements made in different parts of the work. Even the figures do not always agree. Thus, the mean weight of a human being without reference to age or sex is  $98\frac{7}{10}\frac{5}{8}$  pounds on page 15, and  $100\frac{6}{10}$  pounds on page 541. On page 83, "from Peyer's glands a secretion has exuded, which perhaps gives to the mass the characteristic odor it is now assuming, if, indeed, these organs are not connected with absorption." On page 94, "It has been previously stated that the bodies known as Peyer's glands are to be regarded as belonging to the absorbent rather than the digestive apparatus." It may not be irrelevant to ask how Peyer's glands could give the "characteristic odor" to the contents of the large intestine?

It is not strange that an anatomical error or omission should be met with in a physiology written by a chemist; probably the physiologies written by anatomists make the chemists smile occasionally. Professor Draper does not describe the fibres of the optic chiasma which go from the right origin to the right retina, and from the left

origin to the left retina. Yet these are important in explaining both the physiological and pathological phenomena of vision. He places the power of the medulla oblongata in the olfactory ganglion, as if there were no other collection of vesicular matter in that body. Birds, it is well known, have air-cavities between their muscles and in their bones. "It is in consequence of this that a bird is killed so readily, even by a very small shot, since it is scarcely possible to make a perforation into any part of the body without opening the respiratory cavity." Why that should kill a bird, is not clear. On the contrary, if a bird's trachea is tied, and a hole made in one of the long bones, respiration will be kept up through this supplementary windpipe. Passing to the domain of vegetable life, we find Prof. Draper adopting Mr. Knight's old notion of the running out of grafts—as if Downing had never cited plenty of evidence against it—as if the St. Germain pear, and the St. Michael's (or the Virginie, as they call it in New York), and the glorious Brown Beurré, did not grow as well as ever in the right spots—some of which we know full well. Every one of these varieties has come to perfection of late years within a gun-shot of the office where this Journal is printed; and these are the very kinds that the be-Knighted croakers would have us think obsolete and out of date as a Taliaclotian nose would be (according to Hudibras) on the oldest inhabitant!

A few other statements in different parts of the work may be deserving of re-examination in a future edition. Thus, the pulse is stated to be slower in old age than in middle life (p. 139). In opposition to this, see the observations of Leuret and Mitivé, and Volkmann, cited by Carpenter; Hourmann and Dechambre, cited from the *Archives Générales*, in the first volume of the British and Foreign Medical Review; also Dr. Pennock's article in the American Journal of Medical Sciences for July, 1847. Professor Draper speaks of "numerous well-authenticated cases" of the vicarious secretion of milk. But Müller declares, "true vicarious secretion of milk never occurs. Autenrieth has remarked that such supposed secretions of milk from other organs do not contain the essential components of milk, namely, the sugar of milk and butter." In the chapter on the Influence of Physical Agents on Man, are various assertions it might be necessary to correct or qualify. The two Australians, figured from Prichard, are evidently half-starved, "simply caricatures," to use Dr. Pickering's words. This most accurate observer found fine faces among that people, and in some of the young women a very pleasing expression. An Australian presented him the finest model of the human proportions he had ever met with. In fact, these half-starved caricatures would be far from ill-looking if they were fed as well as professors sometimes are. The man's head offers a superb frontal development and a Greek philosopher aspect generally, and the attenuated female, with the aid of corn and crinoline, would be presentable, if not lovely.—And where, we may be permitted to ask, are the "many great cities" on the Chinese rivers, "vastly outnumbering in their popu-

lation the largest European capitals?" Must we have the "black Jews of Malabar" adduced once more as a proof of the effect of climate in changing the complexion of a race, when it has been stated, over and over again, on the authority of those living among them, that they are a mixed race? Again, when the California "Indians" are contrasted with those of the Atlantic shore, it should be remembered that Dr. Pickering maintains that they are not "Indian" at all, but Malays from the other continent. The transformation of the Mongol into the Caucasian type in the case of the Turks, maintained by Prichard and re-asserted by Professor Draper, is much more probably referred by Hamilton Smith to their extraction from, or early intermixture with, the higher race.

And what shall we say to the doctrine that the European complexion has grown darker in consequence of the artificial modes of life introduced in modern times? (p. 591.) Will furnaces and gaslight ever turn white people into negroes? Do not those who are housed and sheltered with the greatest care, blanch like celery? Look at the white arms and shoulders in the first ballroom you may enter, and see what a "warmer and more genial climate," produced by human art, effects in that direction.—Would Professor Draper really conclude from his statistics (p. 595) that the erring woman is commonly older than the tempting man? What say the story tellers and painters from the time of Colonel Chartres, downwards and upwards?

The tropical races leave behind them two curses, says Professor Draper, "tobacco and syphilis." This epigrammatic conjunction forcibly recalls the "Father of Chemistry and uncle to the Earl of Cork";

"Wrapped in my virtue and a good surtout";

"He had no malice in his mind,  
No ruffles on his shirt,"

and similar lively passages. We commend the Professor to Charles Lamb's *Farewell to Tobacco*, and to the old proverb about not overblackening the Worst of individuals.—We must remark, too, on the explanation of the progress of differentiation and development, "The tendency to a gliding off," &c. (p. 513.) It is just as good reversed. Opium makes us sleep because it has a dormitive virtue. Opium has a dormitive virtue because it makes us sleep.

There are various opinions and theoretical suggestions which, if our space allowed, we should like to examine. Thus, the doctrines of Longet and Carpenter, with reference to the functions of the various divisions of the nervous system, are adopted with much confidence. Yet those who teach physiology must be aware that however convenient it would be for them to consider these points settled, there is very little maintained by either of these writers as to the offices of the various lesser subdivisions of the cerebro-spinal system, which is not discredited by the observations of others derived from comparative anatomy, pathological investigation, or direct experiment. The "calorific hypothesis," to account for the pheno-

mena of vision, is bold, but seems at first sight fanciful to one who is not a chemist. The same remark applies to the theory of muscular contraction. They deserve especial attention from the student, as highly ingenious and suggestive, whether capable of proof or otherwise. The whole infinitely interesting question of equivocal generation is brought up by a single paragraph on the 484th page. And, lastly, the great subject of the immortality of the soul is approached in the best spirit from the physical side of nature.

We regret that the references to authorities are by no means so complete as desirable. Compared with most German works, or with that of Kirkes and Paget, the deficiency is striking.

The work is, in the main, correctly printed. Albumenoid may be intentional, but osmazone (p. 273, twice), and nullusce (p. 376), are obnoxious to the eyes of chemists and comparative anatomists. Professor Draper must settle with the heirs and assigns of Priscian for the assault and battery involved in the use of such words as "strainage," "equivalecy," and "primest," and of "intervening" and "coalesce" in the active sense.

The figures, as was said at the beginning of this notice, are many of them new. As for the photographs from nature, they are curious rather than excellent. A spirited drawing would give a much better and *truer* idea of bone and of ossifying cartilage than figures 109 and 112. Figure 235 conveys a good notion of the spiral fibre in the cactus; but we are in the habit of obtaining better microscopic views from *steamed rhubarb*, the vegetable known to the vulgar under the metaphorical name of *spring-fruit*, or the theological one of *pie-plant*. The photographs from *engravings* are of great excellence, only they are liable to the objection that they are, in many cases, too small. Compare, for instance, figures 181 and 184 with figures 188 and 189, which are on a proper scale. Figure 176 is a triumph of the wood engraver's art, truly wonderful in delicacy and multiplicity of detail, but liable to the objection just mentioned. Inaccuracies creep into the best work when executed in such miniature proportions; thus, figure 164 is prettily engraved enough for a signet ring, but it makes the "petrosal branch of the Vidian nerve" come from the third division of the fifth pair, instead of from the trunk that arises from Meckel's ganglion. It is plain what is *intended*, but we are describing, with the aid of a magnifying glass, what is *done*. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, the illustrations are highly valuable, and constitute a real accession to our anatomical and physiological picture gallery.

Professor Draper's treatise is, then, an original and interesting work, written in the true spirit of reducing the so-called vital actions, so far as possible, to the general laws of nature, rich in experiment, fertile in suggestion, fresh in illustration, and scholar-like in composition; but to be read with a certain caution as to statements and hypotheses, which would be unnecessary were we dealing with the labors of a dull compiler.

O. W. H.

Boston, October, 1856.

## LETTER FROM PARIS.

[Communicated for the Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.]

MESSRS. EDITORS,—Lectures at the Ecole de Médecine are nearly terminated for the season, and examinations are in progress. The professors, with their insignia of office, sit daily to inquire into the qualifications of applicants for a degree, and the examination in medicine and the collateral sciences is rigid. Spectators are admitted, and the standing of each student is known to his fellows. The professors are accustomed to ask fair and legitimate questions devoid of all ambiguity, and the candidate is thrown upon his own resources without the remotest aid from a leading interrogation. Were not a stranger unable to judge, from a lack of familiarity with French manners and customs, it would seem that the shrugs, gestures and grimaces, provoked by an incorrect answer, were clearly discourteous. A Frenchman expresses incredulity by putting his shoulder into his ear. The examinations on the whole are very creditable, and a high order of proficiency is shown. Great skill in operative surgery is often exhibited upon the dead body by a vastly greater number of men than can possibly ever have an opportunity to exercise the art.

Velpeau still holds his place, though getting old. His face is unmarked by any prominent feature, except shaggy, overhanging eyebrows; and his bedside practice at the hospital seems devoid of all feeling of tenderness for his patient. In the lecture room his manner is impressive and engaging. Nélaton, a younger man, and very popular at the school and hospital, is destined to succeed him.

Piorry carries percussion to its extremest limit. He professes to trace even the minute vessels by the indication of sound. With his light oval pleximeter and pencil, guided by a few rapid taps, he will map out upon the skin the topography of a diseased lung with unerring skill. His fine face is lighted up with intelligence as he asks questions, pronounces diagnosis or utters some piquant remark or salutation; sometimes in French and sometimes in English, as the students gather around him at a clinique.

The wards of a French hospital present a somewhat curious appearance. There is less quiet than we should see in England or America, and therapeutic science is not apparently the exclusive object of attention. The throng is motley; surgeons and attendants in white aprons, possibly a legacy from the barbers; other assistants in cap and blouse; white sisters of charity; Charrière the famous instrument maker, hale and rubicund, the pink decoration in his buttonhole (this order is worn by nearly all the surgeons); Luer, an instrument maker, half surgeon, and the ordinarily diversified crowd of attending students.

Ricord is followed through the wards of the Hôpital du Midi by hosts of pupils, and his popularity is unbounded. There are four hundred beds devoted to syphilis, and as many more out-patients every week. Every form of disease is presented for study in its

most instructive aspect. He diagnoses chancre in the urethra, in cases which would otherwise be termed gonorrhœa, by manipulation which discloses an indurated sore, when it is not desirable to test the discharge by inoculation. He maintains that syphilitic virus will not produce gonorrhœa, which has its own specific poison, while it undoubtedly will induce an urethral discharge, as any irritating injection might do. Whether in the lecture room or by the bed side, he is perpetually throwing off brilliant things: to one patient, an injunction to drink no wine; to another, advice to study mathematics, in order to escape priapism. His massive features and large projecting eyes are never allowed to subside into quiet. A table and chair, with seats around for listeners, beneath the trees in the court-yard of the hospital, constitute his summer lecture room. In this Academic grove he sets forth and enforces his doctrines with all the combined force of talent, keen wit and accumulated experience. He sometimes differs from other authorities, but in his divergence always carries the majority with him. Velpeau took different grounds some years ago, and still maintains opinions varying from Ricord. The surgeon of the *South* is a *bon vivant* and a man of elegant tastes, which his position enables him to gratify luxuriously. Former embarrassments are in progress of removal, while unabated popularity, middle age not yet passed, and the full possession of health, promise the enjoyment of a well-earned prosperity.

Paul Dubois holds no cliniques at present; an epidemic prevails in his wards, which are now closed. Some rumors of censure and threatened disgrace for the mode in which he conducted the labor of the Empress have been sent by letter writers over sea; but I can learn definitely of no such thing here. Undoubtedly his patient suffered much in her accouchement, and recovered slowly. Her health is at present very frail; but apparently from no mismanagement in her attendant.

E. S.

*Paris, August 1st, 1856.*

---

#### AMPUTATION OF THE THIGH.

[Communicated for the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.]

MESSRS. EDITORS,—I hereby communicate for your valuable Journal, a case of amputation of the thigh, at which I was present and rendered assistance.

The patient, John Toohey, of Milford, 23 years of age, had suffered for about a year from disease and exfoliation of the tibia of the left leg. At 8 years of age a sore gathered upon this leg, the tibia became implicated, and was broken by the rough handling of a drunken bone-setter. At the close of a year the leg had healed, and it remained well for thirteen years, except that it felt somewhat stiff and had not the strength of the other limb. In August, 1855, from a slight injury caused by the scratch of a nail and a rather

serofulvous diathesis of the patient, the sore again broke out, attended with exfoliation of the tibia to a large extent. Numerous pieces of bone were from time to time discharged. The patient was wasting, and the case, at best, seemed about to prove a lingering and trying one, with a useless limb at last, even if it should heal. It was therefore proposed to remove the diseased and deformed limb, by amputation above the knee. The patient readily acquiesced, and the operation was performed on the 22d of July, 1856, by Dr. A. L. Hobart, of Southborough, who was ably assisted by Dr. Carpenter of Upton, and by Drs. Enos and Geo. Hoyt of Framingham. A mixture of equal parts of ether and chloroform—about three ounces for the whole operation—was administered, and the patient behaved admirably under its influence. The flap operation was performed, an inch below the centre of the femur, and it was done, in every respect, as in the case I reported for your Journal of Nov. 8th, 1854. The cold-water dressing was applied to the stump. Upon examination of the leg after the amputation, the tibia was found to be exfoliated to the thickness of a case-knife.

The thigh was off in thirty-five seconds, and the ligatures were all placed in twenty minutes. The stump healed kindly. The last ligature came away on the eighteenth day. In the case of amputation of the thigh by Dr. Hobart, at Marlborough, Aug. 17th, 1854, the ligature of the femoral artery came away on the 16th day. But in the case of amputation of the fore-arm at Southborough, by the same operator, on the 3d of July last, the ligature of the radial artery could not be removed till the thirty-first day.

I have recently examined the stump at Milford. It is firm, and of good shape to receive a false limb. The health of the patient is good.

Yours truly,

J. W. BROWN.

Framingham, Sept. 26th, 1856.

#### CASE OF HYSTERIA, SIMULATING HEART DISEASE.

BY PHILIP BURROWES, ESQ., M.R.C.S., SURGEON TO THE LONDON CITY MISSION.

I WAS requested, some time ago, to see the daughter of a solicitor. Her father informed me that she was laboring under "heart disease." She was 17 years of age, with fair hair, blue eyes, and florid complexion. Her usual state of health had been good up to 1849, when she had a severe illness, but I was unable to learn what its nature was, with the exception that she lay in a state of insensibility for two days, suffering more or less from the symptoms until the period she came under my care. The catamenia appeared at 15, but have never been regular as to time or quantity, sometimes two months elapsing between the periods, the quantity being small, and color paler than natural.

When I first saw her, she complained of great pain over the entire cardiac region, greatly increased by pressure, so much so as almost to preclude the stethoscopic examination; decubitus more easy

on the left side ; pain and heart's action increased by turning round ; dyspnoea distressing ; heart's impulse slow and labored, increased in extent so as to be heard above the clavicle on the right side ; apex of the heart somewhat lower than natural ; first sound dull and prolonged, with a slight blowing murmur over the second cartilage on the right side ; second sound natural ; rhythm of the pulse regular, and beat corresponding with the heart's ; there is no venous murmur ; heart's dulness augmented in area ; carotid pulsation visible ; dull, aching pain over the forehead ; no musæ volitantes or visual illusions of any kind ; tongue clean ; bowels confined, which is usual with her.

She was ordered six leeches over the cardiac region, and the bleeding to be promoted by warm fomentations ; the bowels were evacuated with infusion of senna and Rochelle salts ; after which, she took the following draught three times daily :—Bicarbonate of potassium, ten grains ; tincture of hyoscyamus, half a drachm ; hydrocyanic acid (Sch.), two drops ; cinnamon water one ounce. The diet to consist of boiled mutton and stale bread, with cocoa or milk for breakfast and tea, but no tea or coffee.

Under this treatment, the heart's action was quieted, the dyspnoea decreased, the pain was lessened, and after continuing it for ten days, five grains of the ammonio-tartrate of iron was added to the draught, and the potash omitted. I kept her on this plan for three weeks, at which time I discontinued my attendance. The heart's action was then moderate, the pain entirely gone, there was no dyspnoea, and the murmur could only be heard at times. I requested particular attention to diet, her bowels, and the gradual discontinuance of the medicine.

I had ceased my attendance on her for about ten days, when I was again requested to see her (April 15th, 1851), and found her in a most violent paroxysm, tearing her hair, beating the bed, and throwing everything from her with the greatest possible force. Her mother told me she had been silent for two days, during which time her bowels were confined, when she suddenly, and without giving any warning, fell into the state in which I found her. The face was flushed, but there was no foaming at the mouth, and the spasmodyc actions were irregular ; occasionally there was a slight attempt to laugh and talk, but she was totally unconscious of everything passing around her ; the abdomen was highly tympanitic. I ordered her twenty drops of Battley's sedative solution, in camphor mixture, every two hours, as long as the paroxysm should last, and an enema of assafœtida and turpentine. On seeing her again in three hours, she was more calm and composed ; sensibility was in a great measure returned ; when spoken to, she answers, and then laughs violently, and sits up, picking the clothes, and everything else that comes in her way ; only a small quantity of urine passed from the bladder, high colored, without any trace of albumen with heat and nitric acid ; tongue white, and pulse feeble. Ordered, tincture of assafœtida, a drachm and a half ; rectified ether, a drachm and a

half; Battley's solution, half a drachm; camphor mixture, three ounces and half; mix. One ounce every four hours.

April 16th.—She is more composed; bowels still confined, and she complains of great pain in the head. To continue the mixture without the opium, and have a stimulating aperient draught immediately.

17th.—The bowels have acted twice, but there is still pain in the head, and slight indistinctness in her articulation, with occasional muttering, although quite sensible when her attention is roused. The catamenia have not appeared for six weeks. Ordered, assafoetida gum, one grain; sulphate of iron, two grains; decoction of powdered aloes, one grain: make two pills, to be taken every night. Also a draught, consisting of one drachm of tincture of valerian, half a drachm of spirit of fetid ammonia, and one ounce of camphor mixture; to be taken three times a day.

18th.—Was very restless up to three this morning, since which time she has enjoyed a quiet sleep. Her speech is now quite indistinct, and cannot be understood at all. She is perfectly sensible when roused, and puts her tongue out very well, without its being drawn to either side; neither sensation nor motion at all impaired. When asked if her head aches, she moves her hand all over it. To have eight leeches applied to the vulva, and mustard plasters to the nape of the neck, and the aperient draught if necessary. Continue pills and mixture.

19th.—The leeches have been applied, with the greatest relief to the head. She appears better in every respect; the articulation, however, is still most imperfect, she being only able to utter a word here and there. The bowels have been freely moved, and she has passed a large quantity of clear urine; the pulse continues feeble. Full diet; medicines continued.

22d.—The catamenia appeared yesterday morning. She is improving fast; perfectly rational; no appearance of restlessness or childishness; speech much the same as at last report. I examined the heart carefully this morning; its action is regular, force natural; the murmur has disappeared; there is no dyspnoea, or any symptom, either local or general, to indicate disease of the heart. She continues on the same treatment.

24th.—Her speech suddenly returned yesterday morning, and she continues to improve in every respect.

From this time she remained under my care for several weeks, during which period the same principle of treatment was kept up, and her health was completely established. I have lately seen her, and understand that she has continued in perfect health ever since. The catamenia return regularly, and she is never troubled with palpitation. She takes regular exercise, and sponges herself every morning with cold salt-and-water. \* \* \*

With regard to the general treatment of hysteria, I have found no class of remedies so useful as the fetid gums, variously combined, either with sedatives or narcotics and steel; and for the re-

lief of the local pains, aconite, chloroform, and belladonna. The liniment which I have found the most useful is the following:—Tincture of aconite, half an ounce; chloroform, three drachms; soap liniment and compound camphor liniment, of each one ounce and a half. This should be rubbed into the seat of pain, and if necessary a piece of lint soaked in it, and applied under oiled silk.—*London Lancet, Sept. 6th, 1856.*

---

### Bibliographical Notices.

---

*Memoir of Moreton Stillé, M.D.* Read before the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, April 2d, 1856. By SAMUEL L. HOLLINGSWORTH, M.D. Philadelphia. 1856. pp. 35.

This short memoir has been upon our table for some weeks, and we cannot permit to pass unnoticed, our opinion of its truthfulness, and thorough appreciation of the character of one whose friendship we shall always consider it a privilege to have been permitted to enjoy. It was our good fortune to pass some months of the winter of 1844-5 with Dr. S. and a few other American students, in Dublin; and his untiring, conscientious devotion to his studies, was something quite remarkable, and the subject of general comment. The unbounded hospitality of the profession in Dublin is proverbial, and few there are at 23, who can resist the charms of social life thus freely offered them; but for him, professional duties claimed his first love, and he denied himself every pleasure which could in any way interfere therewith. In the words of his biographer, "whatever he undertook, he applied himself to with a quiet determination, from which no obstacle or allurement ever diverted him for a moment."

As a natural result of such application, Dr. Stillé, though hardly 33 years of age at the time of his death, had already attained an enviable position in Philadelphia, among those competent to judge of his medical acquirements. Nor was his reputation confined solely to the city of his adoption; his writings, particularly the Treatise on Medical Jurisprudence, of which he was one of the editors, had brought him into favorable notice throughout the country, and every prospect was fair for a distinguished future, had his life been spared.

The memoir, it is gratifying to perceive, appears as a part of the Transactions of a scientific body. This is as it should be, for

"He that lacks time to mourn, lacks time to mend.  
Eternity mourns that. 'Tis an ill cure  
For life's worst ills, to have no time to feel them.  
Where sorrow's held intrusive, and turned out,  
There wisdom will not enter, nor true power,  
Nor aught that dignifies humanity."

G. H. L.

---

*Practical Anatomy; a New Arrangement of the London Dissector. With Illustrations.* By D. HAYES AGNEW, M.D., Lecturer on Anatomy, and Surgeon to the Philadelphia Hospital. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1856. 12mo. pp. 310.

This work is a condensed guide for the use of the student engaged in the study of practical anatomy. Every thing not essential to his wants is omitted, the object of the author having been the economy of the student's

time. The work appears to have been prepared with accuracy, and is illustrated with good engravings. Its size makes it a convenient companion for the dissecting room.

*The Diseases of Infants and Children.* By FLEETWOOD CHURCHILL, M.D. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea, 1856. pp. 736.

It is not necessary to recommend any of Dr. Churchill's books to the American medical reader. He has for years been known to every physician in the country for the accuracy of his statements, and the completeness of his histories. His works upon Female Diseases and Midwifery earned him so wide a reputation, that the Philadelphia publishers solicited the book, which is now before us in its second edition. An American book, written by an Irishman, really seems to be an unnatural production, but the readers of the Journal may be assured that it is no joke. They will find its pages not devoid of interest. Like the rest of Dr. Churchill's writings, it contains in the foot notes a bibliography of the subjects treated. This is one of the great merits of the writer. He does not appropriate the ideas of others, and claim them as his own; but giving full credit for what he borrows, he points out the sources from which his statements are derived.

Dr. Keating, the American editor, informs us that more than one hundred enlarged pages have been added to this edition. C. E. B.

---

## THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

---

BOSTON, OCTOBER 23, 1856.

---

### M. BROWN-SEQUARD'S DISCOVERIES.

In a former number of the Journal (Jan. 31, 1856) we presented a short account of the conclusions which M. Brown-Séquard had arrived at, concerning the functions of the spinal marrow, after an extended series of experimental researches. These conclusions were announced in Paris, though a large number of M. Séquard's investigations had been carried on in this country. Being at variance with the generally-received doctrines on the subject, they were received with surprise by the majority of physiologists in Europe, but on being subjected to the scrutiny of a committee composed of some of the most eminent physiologists of France, before whom M. Séquard's experiments were repeated, the truth of his views was fully substantiated.

So far as we know, we were the first to announce these discoveries in this country, and were not a little surprised to find ourselves at once the object of a storm of indignation, originating with the editor of the New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal, and echoed by a number of other medical periodicals in this country. Our offence consisted in having attributed to a foreigner discoveries which, it was alleged, the world owed to Dr. Bennett Dowler, by whom they had long since been announced in a series of monographs and articles in medical journals.

We confess that, at the time we wrote our article, we had a very imperfect knowledge of Dr. Dowler's views on the subject of the functions of the spinal cord. These views, however, do not appear to have found favor even with American physiologists. We copy the following from the (Philadelphia) Medical Examiner, which alone comes to our defence.

" We have looked through several recent American works on Anatomy and Physiology in relation to this subject, and in none of them have we found any mention made of Dr. Dowler's views. All of them, in fact, agree with Dr. Richardson, the junior editor of the Louisville Review, who makes the following statement in his *Elements of Human Anatomy* (1854), 'Each spinal nerve originates from the side of the cord by two distinct parts or roots, called from their relative position the anterior and posterior roots; of these, the former is entirely motor and the latter sensory in its function.' It would be preposterous to suppose that there existed a combination among all the writers of these works to reject Dr. Dowler's views; for reasons best known to themselves, they took no notice of them. Under these circumstances, we do not see why the charge mentioned above should be specially aimed against an Eastern Journalist."

We disclaim any intention of injustice towards Dr. Dowler. We are no more the partisan of one experimenter than of the other. Our object is to lay before our readers whatever of interest we can find in the progress of medical science, and in our notice of M. Séquard's conclusions we stated, what no one can deny, that their announcement caused much interest in the scientific world, that their truth has been substantiated, and that the credit of their originality was fully accorded to that distinguished physiologist. We may add, that after a careful perusal of Dr. Bennet Dowler's article published in the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal* for July, 1851, containing his "Experimental Researches Illustrative of the Functional Oneness, Unity and Diffusion of Nervous Action," &c., we are unable to perceive the slightest resemblance between his experiments or his conclusions and those of M. Brown-Séquard. Dr. Dowler's object was to prove that the sensorium is diffused throughout the whole nervous system, and that it is most active in its peripheral expansions; he makes no allusion to the different tracts of the spinal cord as conductors either of sensation or of motion.

In a letter printed in the last number of the *Charleston Medical Journal and Review*, M. Brown-Séquard defends himself against the charges of the editor of that periodical, by showing that his conclusions are wholly at variance with those of Dr. Bennet Dowler. After stating the facts and conclusions which result from his experiments, he says:

" I believe it is not necessary to enter into any detail to show the opposition between these conclusions and the theory of Dr. Dowler. All these conclusions point out the peculiar channel of the sensitive fibres and of the sensitive impressions through and along the spinal cord, towards the encephalon, and therefore they are in direct opposition with the views of Dr. Dowler, who admits that almost every part of the body is endowed with sensibility, and who thinks that the white or gray matter of the spinal cord and its posterior, anterior, and lateral columns, are all alike as regards sensibility.

" I will only add that my experiments perfectly agree with the views of almost all the living physiologists, respecting the seat of the sensorium. I find this seat to be in the encephalon, and not disseminated almost everywhere, as Dr. Dowler thinks. As to the spinal cord, I believe my experiments show that it is a mere leader, and not, as Dr. Dowler thinks, one of the numerous seats of voluntary power and of a diffused sensorium. And now, if a prize has been awarded to me, it is not for my having given any confirmation to the theory of Dr. Dowler, but on the contrary, to have adduced facts and proposed theories in radical opposition with it."

Not a little of the indignation called forth by our article arose from the supposed fact that Dr. Séguard was an European; in the language of the Charleston Journal, "the medical editors of this country are called upon to contest the claims of the European, and assert the right of priority of discovery for the American physiologist." We leave Dr. Séguard to answer this charge, in the conclusion of his letter, merely adding that the blunder of his opponents in regard to his nationality would almost lead one to doubt *theirs*.

"In finishing your article of May last, you say: 'The medical editors of this country are called upon to contest the claims of the *European*, and assert the right of priority of discovery for the American physiologist.' I was not born in Europe, and I am not in any way a European. I am an American citizen, not by naturalization, as you might think, but by right of birth, according to the United States law, that wherever a man is born, if he is the son of an American, he is himself an American. I might add, that my father's family, in the last century, settled in your own State, in New York, and in Philadelphia, and my father, who was born in Philadelphia, served several years, when young, in the United States Navy, as a midshipman.

I may therefore—and I am proud to be able to do so—call myself,

Your countryman,

ED. BROWN-SEQUARD, M.D."

#### AID FOR INDIGENT AND INFIRM OR DISABLED PRACTITIONERS.

WHEN a physician or surgeon has toiled for many years in his arduous profession, and, having failed to accumulate enough to render himself and family comfortable, without the continuance of labor, finds himself disabled by disease or age from its prosecution, nothing, surely, can be more disheartening. Many painful instances come to our recollection, where physicians have been cut down in the prime of life and in the midst of their activity and usefulness, before they have thought, even, of laying by anything for future necessities. The situation of their families, under such circumstances, is often distressing in the extreme. Accustomed to find all their daily wants bountifully supplied and even luxuries furnished, the contrast is the more striking and the need more urgent, when the ministering hand is palsied by disease or death.

A medical practitioner may have been reasonably successful in gaining a lucrative business, during the earlier part of his career; various causes may diminish or destroy this, and unlooked-for poverty may come upon him. Tempted by hopes of better fortune elsewhere, he may remove and begin anew. Generally, such a course proves disastrous, especially at advanced periods of a professional life; utter ruin may follow, or the unfortunate man may, by a series of desperate struggles, keep his head above water for a time, only to sink the quicker, when his uncertain resources are exhausted. Very lately, a case of this nature has presented itself to our notice, and similar instances cannot be rare. Well-educated men, in our profession, removed by some mishap from a flourishing business, and unsuited for other pursuits, are thus deprived of gaining a livelihood, at the very time of life when their exigencies are the most pressing.

In such instances a little well-directed *material aid* might re-establish an individual who must otherwise yield to the mere pressure of circumstances. Let such an one receive enough to free him from daily anxiety with regard to subsistence for his family, and if life and health be spared to him, he will, in all probability, work himself out of trouble and be enabled to regain the assistance afforded him in favor of others who require it. On the

other hand, should he be unable to rise again into successful practice, he and his surely need aid all the more; and if a worthy man, we can conceive of no more fitting charity.

In the case of death of practitioners whose families are left in indigent circumstances, due alone to misfortune, the amount of good effected by judiciously-applied pecuniary assistance can hardly be over-estimated. Similar management enables many a worn-out or disabled clergyman to spend his failing life in tranquil comfort, and to be at ease with regard to those dependent upon him; why should not we, as a profession, establish analogous resources for our unfortunate brethren?

Few projects, we believe, offer so many inducements to the benevolent, both in and out of the profession, as would some well-digested plan with the end in view to which we have thus briefly alluded. If a number of influential members of various medical communities would take the matter zealously in hand, the nuclei of funds would be readily formed. There are many engaged in other avocations, whose hearts and hands are always ready for good and generous deeds, and who would, we doubt not, lend efficient assistance in accumulating means towards the support of those who have faltered, or utterly failed, in the midst of their labors—or who, insufficiently remunerated through life, find old age, feebleness and want rapidly approaching them.

If district or state societies would act in their corporate capacity in this matter—or if every physician, who is able, would give a small sum, a sufficient amount would be soon secured to form the basis, at least, of a fund so much needed.

We hope that efficient action will be taken relative to these propositions, and engage to do all in our power to further their realization.

*Health of Boston.*—The number of deaths last week was considerably less than during the previous one, though larger by ten than during the corresponding week of 1855. Cholera infantum still lingers, though the number of deaths is not large. From scarlet fever, the deaths were 8, against 1 of the corresponding week of last year; but while during that week there were 5 deaths from typhoid fever, we notice but one for that ending last Saturday. We notice 3 deaths from dysentery, and 2 from diarrhoea. The city may be considered as very healthy.

---

*Books and Pamphlets Received.*—*Eloge de F. L. I. Valleix prononcé à la Séance publique de la Société Anatomique, par le Dr. T. Gallard.* (From the author.)

---

**MARRIED.**—In West Newton, 8th inst., Dr. Edward A. Spooner, of Philadelphia, to Miss Hannah, daughter of Mr. George Adams.—In Keene, N. H., 16th inst., Edward Brooks Pearson, M.D., of Salem, Mass., to Ellen Elizabeth Perry, daughter of the late Justus Perry, of K.—In Warren, R. I., Oct. 15th, Nicholas Francis Cooke, M.D., of Chicago, Illinois, to Laura W., daughter of the late Commodore Joel Abbott, U. S. N., of the former place.

---

**DIED.**—In Abington, 11th inst., Ezekiel Thaxter, M.D., 69.—In Northampton, 7th inst., Dr. Daniel Stebbins, 90 years, 6 months.

---

*Deaths in Boston* for the week ending Saturday noon, Oct. 18th, 77. Males, 41—females, 36. Apoplexy, 2—disease of the bowels, 1—congestion of the brain, 3—disease of the brain, 1—consumption, 16—cholera infantum, 6—croup, 2—dysentery, 3—diarrhoea, 2—dropsy, 2—dropsy in the head, 1—debility, 1—infantile diseases, 2—typhoid fever, 1—scarlet fever, 8—gastritis, 1—haemorrhage of the lungs, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 2—old age, 1—palsy, 1—premature birth, 1—disease of the spine, 1—pleurisy, 1—suicide, 2—teething, 4—tumor, 1—unknown, 7— whooping cough, 2.

Under 5 years, 37—between 5 and 20 years, 5—between 20 and 40 years, 19—between 40 and 60 years, 9—above 60 years, 7. Born in the United States, 55—Ireland, 16—other foreign places, 6.

*Extensive Injury during Pregnancy.*—In this city, last winter, a robust German female, about 26 years of age, and five months pregnant, fell into a well, and descended 51 feet! She suffered an oblique fracture of the thigh, complete dislocation at the knee-joint, and a fracture both of the tibia and fibula just above the ankle! At no time after the accident did she manifest any signs of abortion, but went her full time, and was delivered, some time in June last, of a well-formed, healthy child. It may prove not uninteresting to mention that, during the pregnancy, the fracture in the vicinity of the ankle-joint failed to unite. After delivery, the process of reparation commenced, although slowly, and she is now regaining the use of her limb.—*Dr. H. Tyler Smith's Obstetric Lectures in Lond. Lancet.*

*Sun's Rays in Consumption.*—Dr. Coventry, in an Address before the N. York State Medical Society, remarks:—“There is one subject which requires a more extended notice than it has usually received from our systematic writers. I refer to the influence of the sun's rays. Every physiologist knows how absolutely necessary they are to the growth of plants, and the etiolating effect their absence or withdrawal has upon the complexion. Is it unreasonable to suppose that they may have some influence in causing or preventing tuberculosis? It seems well established, that tubercles may be produced in animals by confining them in close and dark apartments, on a meagre diet. Doctor Hall says that by this means he produced fatty degenerations in animals, which he considers analogous to, if not identical with, tuberculosis. In the city where I reside, there was an office connected with a large mercantile establishment, so situated that the sun never shone upon it. It was in the rear of the building, with a single window, and that so surrounded with buildings as to exclude the sun. The occupants of the office died, one after another, until the proprietors became alarmed, and had the office removed to another part of the building. One of the occupants I attended, when in the last stage of his disease. He entered the office a strong, healthy man, with no hereditary tendency to the disease, and temperate and regular in all his habits; but in less than two years he was carried, like his predecessors, to the grave, a victim to consumption. In his case I was never able to discover any cause, unless it was occupying that fatal office, where he was book-keeper.”

*Death from Drinking Naphtha.*—The London Lancet records a case of death from drinking about three ounces of naphtha, used for burning in lamps. The patient was a lad twelve years of age. The symptoms were at first those of excitement, speedily followed by stertorous breathing and a state of collapse. Death took place in less than three hours. At the post-mortem examination, the preservative action of the naphtha was very remarkable. The weather was very hot, and although three days had elapsed since death, all parts of the corpse were as fresh as if the lad had recently died. The blood was everywhere very fluid. The lungs were not at all congested, and the coats of the stomach were found to be very little affected by the presence of the poison. The smell of naphtha pervaded the whole of the tissues, and was very perceptible immediately on opening the head.

*Benzoin in the Treatment of Chronic Dysentery.*—The compound tincture of Benzoin, in the dose of from fifteen to twenty minims, is strongly recommended by Mr. Wells, of Bristol, as a valuable remedy in chronic dysentery.—*Lond. Lancet.*

*Professional Reputation.*—Dr. Baillie, of London, remarked that he had never known a physician, who, from any cause, acquired business rapidly in London, who permanently retained it. If it be rapidly acquired, this must be accomplished by means independent of those which give a firm hold on the confidence and affections of patients, for they cannot at once be displayed, nor can they at once have their full operation. Sir Astley Cooper's receipts from his first year's practice were \$26; the second year, \$130; and so on until on the ninth year it amounted to \$5,500. Afterwards, his receipts ran up in one year to the enormous amount of \$115,000. Dr. Hope, with a well-known London reputation, made \$1,000 the first two years.—*Prof. Barker's (N. Y. Med. Coll.) Introductory Lecture.*

Dr. George C. Blackman, Professor of Surgery in the Medical College of Ohio, has become associated with Dr. T. Wool, also a professor in the same college, in the proprietorship and editorship of the Western Lancet.